

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPTE-00 VOE-00 SCSE-00 A-01

MMO-04 PER-03 AS-01 /023 W
----- 102233

R 131046Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1665

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 07389

FOR: SCA, VO, PPT, SCS, EUR/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR PACKAGE - FY-1978 PART II OF TWO PARTS

REF: STATE 96907

REMARKS:

SUMMARY:

DURING FY'76 THE CONSULAR SECTION COMPLETED THE FIRST MAJOR OVERHAUL OF ITS PHYSICAL LAYOUT IN FIFTEEN YEARS. REFURBISHING OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE SECTION WILL CONTINUE INTO FY.77. ALL JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN REVISED WITH A VIEW TOWARD ELEVATING MANY POSITIONS AND STRESSING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONSULAR FIELD. EMBASSY MANAGEMENT PLACES TOP PRIORITY ON PROCESSING WORKLOAD WITH AVAILABLE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SERVICE IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER. A ROTATION AND CROSS-TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL AND AMERICAN EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN INITIATED. THE CLOSING OF CONGEN LIVERPOOL WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR OVERALL OPERATIONS BUT WITH THE TRANSFER OF FIVE LOCAL AND ONE JUNIOR OFFICER POSITIONS FROM LIVERPOOL THE CONSULAR SECTION SHOULD HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE DIFFICULTY ABSORBING THE ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD. TO ENSURE CONTINUED EFFICIENT SERVICE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL DURING FY 1977 AND FY 1978 WILL BE NECESSARY.

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VISAS:

GENERAL:

WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN COPING WITH IMMIGRANT VISA DEMAND. HOWEVER, WE ARE SPENDING INCREASING AMOUNT OF TIME INVESTIGATING BY CORRESPONDENCE CASES INVOLVING ENTITLEMENT OF APPLICANTS TO STATUS ON BASIS OF CLAIMED INVESTOR STATUS AND APPROVED LABOR CERTIFICATION ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT AS DOMESTICS. NO SERIOUS FRAUD PROBLEM IS KNOWN TO EXIST IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF IVS AT THIS POST.

IN PROCESSING NIVS WE PURSUE TWO PARRALLEL OBJECTIVES, QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY. WE HAVE MECHANIZED OUR OPERATIONS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BUT CONTINUE TO EXPLORE OTHER METHODS AND PROCEDURES. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE ON ORDER NEW TAPE-CASSETTE SYSTEM TO REPLACE ANTIQUATED PRESENT TELEPHONIC SYSTEM PROVIDING VISA INFORMATION TO PUBLIC. A THIRD LINE FOR THE AVLOS COMPUTER IS BEING REQUISITIONED. EMPHASIS IS BEING PLACED ON CLOSER SCRUTINY OF ALL NIV APPLICATIONS INCLUDING HOLDERS OF BRITISH PASSPORTS. INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS BELIEF, HOLDERS OF UK PASSPORTS ARE OVERSTAYING AND ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT ON B-1 AND B-2 VISAS IN INCREASING NUMBERS. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SOME SLOWING DOWN IN THE PROCESSING OF NIV APPLICATIONS. WHILE TO DATE THIS HAS NOT PRESENTED A SERIOUS PROBLEM IT IS BEING CLOSELY MONITORED.

TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR STANDARD, SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE STAFF OF THE VISA BRANCH BE KEPT UP TO STRENGTH AT ALL TIMES. ONE OFFICER POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE FEBRUARY (DETAILED OUT SINCE MARCH 1975) AND NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. IN A MEMORANDUM DATED DECEMBER 15, 1975 TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EUR/EX THE COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS AT THE EMBASSY REPORTED THAT WITH THE CLOSING OF LIVERPOOL THE CONSULAR SECTION WOULD REQUIRE ONE JUNIOR OFFICER AND FIVE LOCAL POSITIONS TO ABSORB THE WORKLOAD OF LIVERPOOL CONSULAR DISTRICT. TODATE WE HAVE RECEIVED TWO LIVERPOOL LOCAL POSITIONS. ONE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP BRANCH AND THE OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE VISA BRANCH. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE VISA BRANCH RECEIVE THE OTHER THREE LOCAL POSITIONS IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD THAT WILL RESULT FROM THE CLOSING OF LIVERPOOL. THE EIGHT AUTHORIZED PIT SUMMER POSITIONS CONTINUES TO BE VITAL TO ENABLE US TO COPE WITH THE PEAK SEASONAL DEMAND. (SIX FOR VISAS, ONE FOR PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP AND ONE FOR SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES).

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPTE-00 VOE-00 SCSE-00 MMO-04

A-01 PER-03 AS-01 /023 W

----- 102385

R 131046Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

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VISAS - IMMIGRANT:

ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF INFLATION IS SUBSIDING THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE UK HAS CLIMBED TO AN ALL TIME HIGH OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION AND A HALF DURING THE PAST YEAR. FORECASTS FROM GOVERNMENT, LABOR, ECONOMIC EXPERTS AGREE THAT THE OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION WON'T IMPROVE BEFORE THE END OF 1977. COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO WHICH THE BRITISH TRADITIONALLY EMIGRATE HAVE MADE STRICTER QUALIFICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL RETURN TO AN OPEN DOOR POLICY IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. THE RESULT OF THESE AND OTHER FACTORS HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE US. THE PRINCIPAL DETERRENT TO OUR BEING OVERWHELMED BY IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS IS THE LABOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT. TO KEEP UP WITH THE NEW DEMAND FOR IMMIGRANT VISA INFORMATION WE HAVE CREATED A NEW LOCAL POSITION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC CALLING AT THE EMBASSY. WHILE FRAUD IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM MANY WOULD BE IMMIGRANTS SEEK TO EVADE THE LABOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS BY APPLYING FOR "INVESTOR STATUS" OR APPLYING FOR NIVS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING ILLEGALLY IN THE US OR ONCE ADMITTED SEEK MEANS TO ADJUST THEIR STATUS TO PERMANENT RESIDENTS. BARRING SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE IMMIGRA-

TION LAW WE WILL CONTINUE TO ISSUE IVS AT PRESENT RATE,
I.E. PROCESSING APPROXIMATELY 13,000 APPLICATIONS
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ANNUALLY (RESULTING IN THE ISSUANCE OF ABOUT 10,000
PER ANNUM).

VISAS - NONIMMIGRANT:

OUR FIGURE FOR FY 1975 WAS 2.4 LOWER THAN WE HAD
ESTIMATED IN OUR LAST CONSULAR PACKAGE. HOWEVER' THE
NUMBER PROCESSED DURING FY 1976 WHICH INCLUDES 4 MONTHS
LIVERPOOL CASES, IS LIKELY TO EXCEED OUR ESTIMATES BY AT
LEAST 2. THE UNITED STATES TRAVEL SERVICE ANTICIPATES
A HALF MILLION VISITORS FROM THE UK WILL VISIT THE US
DURING EACH OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS. POSSIBLY ONLY 25
WILL ALREADY HAVE VISAS. IF SO, AND CONSIDERING THE
NUMBERS PROCESSED BY CONSTITUENT POSTS, LONDON'S SHARE
IN FY 1977 WILL BE AT LEAST 375,000. THIS FIGURE TAKES
INTO ACCOUNT THE CLOSING OF THE CONGEN IN LIVERPOOL,
WHICH ACCORDING TO ITS LAST CONSULAR PACKAGE, WILL RESULT
IN 45,000 NIV APPLICATIONS DURING FY '77. WITH THE
CLOSING OF CONGEN LIVERPOOL AT THE END OF MAY 1976
WE WILL RECEIVE 15-20,000 ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS DURING
REMAINING MONTHS THIS FISCAL YEAR. THE NUMBER OF NIV
AND IV INQUIRIES RECEIVED BY MAIL, TELEPHONE AND PERSONAL
CALLERS EITHER TO MAKE APPLICATION OR FOR INFORMATION
CONTINUES TO ACCELERATE. DURING FY '75 APPROXIMATELY
200,000 PERSONS CALLED AT THE EMBASSY. WRITTEN INQUIRIES
FOR NONIMMIGRANT "WORK PERMITS", I.E., FOR SUMMER EMPLOY-
MENT AND THOSE WISHING TO ENTER TO ACCEPT UNSKILLED JOBS
FOR PERIODS RANGING FROM ONE TO TWO YEARS, HAS SHOWN
A DRAMATIC INCREASE AND ADDS TO OUR SUMMER PEAK WORK-
LOAD. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WITH THE FOUR LOCAL POSITIONS
AND ONE OFFICER POSITION ASSIGNED TO THE VISA BRANCH
UPON THE CLOSING OF CONGEN LIVERPOOL IN JUNE 1976, PLUS
ONE ADDITIONAL OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE REQUESTED
FOR FY 1977 AND ONE OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL FOR FY 1978
THE EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO COPE WITH NIV DEMAND THROUGH
FY 1978.

SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES:

WITH THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IMPROVING IN THE UNITED
STATES AND AN ADVANTAGEOUS STERLING EXCHANGE RATE FOR
THE US DOLLAR, THE BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY IS FORCAST-
ING A SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN 10 INCREASE IN THE NUMBER
OF US VISITORS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS YEAR AND
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SIMILAR INCREASES FOR EACH OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS, THIS WILL MEAN 1.33 MILLION AMERICANS IN 1976, 1.48 MILLION IN 1977 AND 1.68 MILLION IN 1978. AT LEAST 95 OF THESE AMERICANS WILL VISIT LONDON CONSULAR DISTRICT. WITH THIS IN MIND AND LONDON TAKING ON LIVERPOOL'S WORK LOAD BEGINNING JUNE 1976 WE HAVE ESTIMATED AN ANNUAL 7 INCREASE IN SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 1976-1978. ONE ADDITIONAL JUNIOR OFFICER IS REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY IF THE EMBASSY IS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM OF VISITING INCARCERATED AMERICANS RECENTLY INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. TO UNDERLINE NECESSITY OF EMBASSY'S NEED IN THIS AREA, THERE ARE 100 PRISONS WITHIN ITS CONSULAR JURISDICTION INCLUDING THOSE TAKEN OVER FROM LIVERPOOL, SOME AS FAR AS 400 MILES FROM LONDON.

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PER-03 MMO-04 AS-01 /023 W

----- 102383

R 131046Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1667

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PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP:

SINCE 1969 THE NUMBER OF PASSPORTS ISSUED ANNUALLY HAS ALMOST DOUBLED. IN FY'76 WE WILL ISSUE IN EXCESS OF 16,000 PASSPORTS ANNUALLY.

DURING FY'77 WE WILL REQUIRE ONE ADDITIONAL JUNIOR OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND IN FY '78 ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE. THIS ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE US TO COPE WITH THE NORMAL WORKLOAD INCREASE

PLUS THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP WORK THAT WILL DEVELOP
WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE CONGEN IN LIVERPOOL.

IT IS FELT THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD AUTHORIZE THE
ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT BY MAIL AT OVERSEAS POSTS. THIS
WOULD ASSIST ENORMOUSLY IN MEETING THE GREATER DEMAND
FOR PASSPORT SERVICES AS WELL AS HELP AMERICAN CITIZENS
IN TERMS OF COST AND TIME.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT
SERVICES WERE PERFORMED DURING FY '75:-

WAIVER FEES (NOT PAID)	25	
REGISTRATION CARDS	888	
RE-REGISTRATIONS ACCOMPANYING FORM FS.176	6,451	
CERTIFICATES OF LOSS OF U.S. NATIONALITY	212	
RENUNCIATIONS OF U.S. NATIONALITY	8	
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AFFIDAVITS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION WITH
PPT/CITIZ. SERVICES 1,137

AFFIDAVITS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION WITH
LOST PASSPORTS 1,177

SUB TOTALS: 9,898

EXTRA PAGES 1,645

ENDORSEMENTS IN PASSPORTS

I.E. ARABIC TRANSLATIONS ETC., 673

TOTALS: 12,216

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON07389
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760185-0916
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760559/aaaabyei.tel
Line Count: 311
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 96907, 76 STATE 96907
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <19 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR PACKAGE - FY-1978 PART II OF TWO PARTS
TAGS: CGEN
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006